



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EL PASO GRAND JURY INDICTS WOMAN FOR INTERFERENCE WITH FLIGHT
CREW MEMBERS AND ATTENDANTS**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that a federal grand jury has returned an indictment against Christine Collins for Interference with Flight Crew Members.

According to the indictment, on June 20, 2003, Ms. Collins was a passenger on a Southwest Airlines flight from Las Vegas, Nevada to Houston, Texas. While aboard the flight, the defendant, Christine Collins, assaulted and intimidated the flight crew and interfered with the performance of their duties which resulted in the aircraft having to make an unscheduled landing in El Paso, Texas.

The defendant was arrested on June 20, 2003. If convicted, she faces up to 20 years in federal prison. This case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is being prosecuted for the government by Assistant U.S. Attorney Margaret Leachman.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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